



The Revolutions Of 1848

“The Springtime of Peoples”



*The turning point at
which history failed to
turn.*

--- George Macaulay Trevelyn
[1937]



Pre-1848 Tensions: Long-Term

* Industrialization

- Economic challenges to rulers.
- Rapid urbanization.
- Challenges to the artisan class.

* Population doubled in the 18^c

- Food supply problems → **Malthus**

* Ideological Challenges

- Liberalism, nationalism, democracy, socialism.

* Romanticism

* Repressive Measures

- **Carlsbad Decrees** [Prus.]
- **Six Acts** [Eng.]
- Secret police created in many European states.



Pre-1848 Tensions: Short-Term

* Agricultural Crises

- Poor cereal harvests
 - prices rose 60% in one year.
- Potato blight → Ireland
 - Prices rose 135% for food in one year!

* Financial Crises

- Investment bubbles burst → railways, iron, coal.
- Unemployment increased rapidly [esp. among the artisan class].



Working & middle classes are now joined in misery as are the urban and agricultural peasantry!

Prince Metternich



1815: *We have redrawn Europe's map for eternity.*

Not Really: Centers of Revolution in 1848

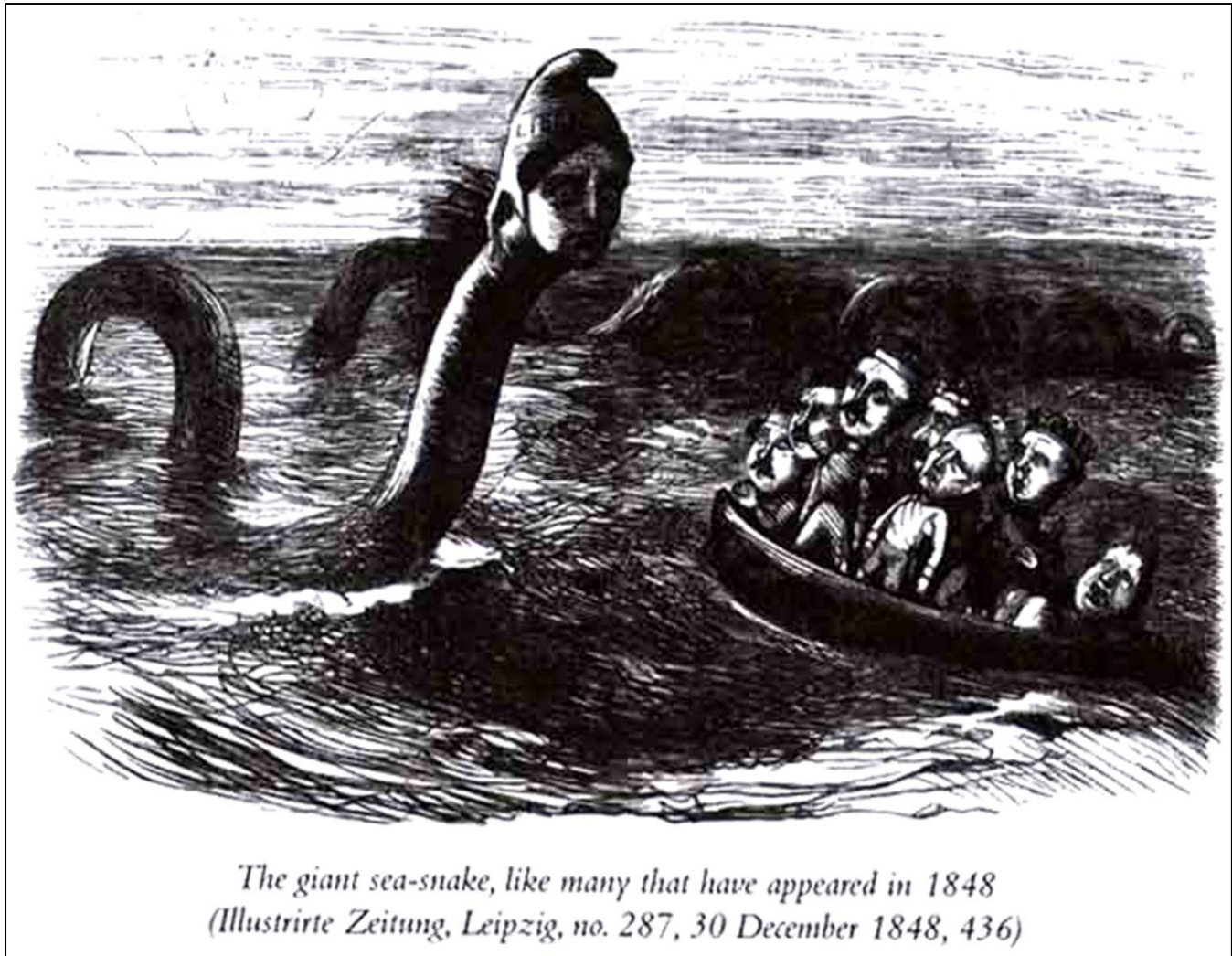




No Coherent Organized Revolutions

- * Many different reasons for revolutionary activities.
 - Reactions to long- and short-term causes.
- * Competing ideologies in different countries.
- * Different revolutionary leaders, aims, and goals in different countries.
- * Some countries had no revolutions:
 - England.
 - Russia.

FRANCE: The Giant Sea Snake?



*The giant sea-snake, like many that have appeared in 1848
(Illustrirte Zeitung, Leipzig, no. 287, 30 December 1848, 436)*



Ferdinand I (1793-1875)

- * The nature of the Austrian Empire:
 - Very conservative monarchy [liberal institutions didn't exist].
- * Culturally and racially heterogeneous.
- * Social reliance on serfdom dooms masses of people to a life without hope.
- * Corrupt and inefficient.
- * Competition with an increasingly powerful Prussia.



Therefore, the Empire was vulnerable to revolutionary challenges.



Austrian Students Form a Militia





Vienna, 1848: The Liberal Revolution

- * The "February Revolution" in France triggered a rebellion for liberal reforms.
- * March 13 → rioting broke out in Vienna.
 - The Austrian Empire collapsed.
 - Metternich fled.
 - Constituent Assembly met.
 - Serfdom [robot] abolished.
 - The revolution began to wane.
 - The revolutionary government failed to govern effectively.



The New Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I [r. 1848-1916]



The Hungarian Revolution



Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894)

- * Hungarian revolutionary leader.
- * March laws provided for Hungarian independence.
- * Austrians invade.
 - Hungarian armies drove within sight of Vienna!
- * Slavic minorities resisted Magyar invasion & the Hungarian army withdrew.
- * Austrian & Russian armies defeated the Hungarian army.
- * Hungary would have to wait until 1866 for autonomy.



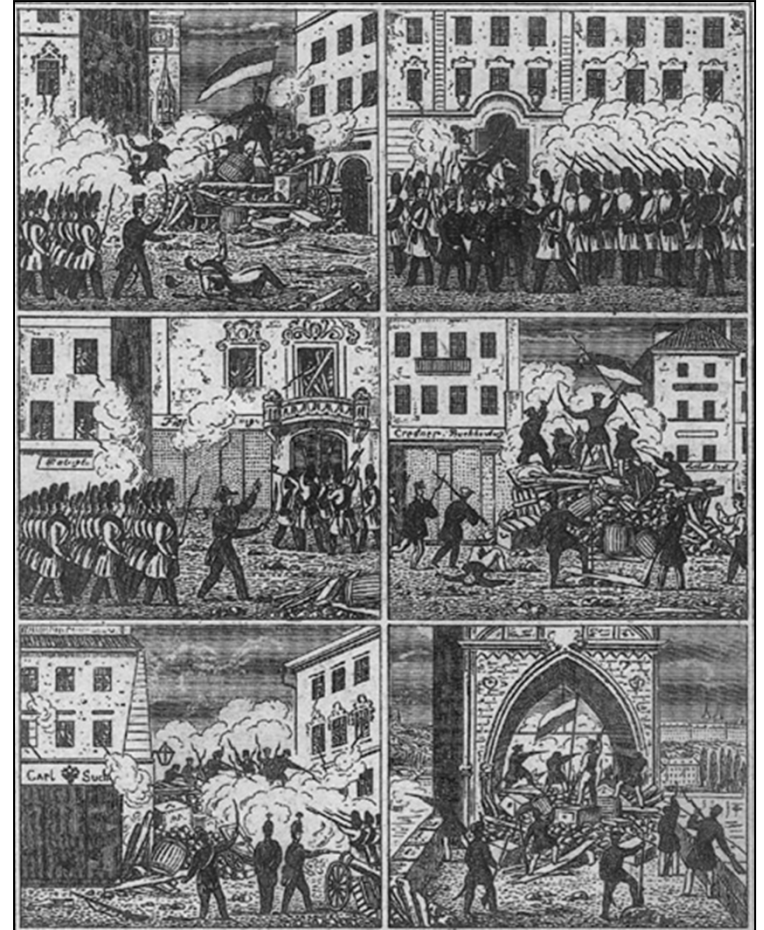
Tsar Nicholas I (r. 1825-1855)



- * He raised an army of 400,000 in response to a request from Franz Joseph.
 - 140,000 put down the Hungarian revolt.

Bohemia, 1848

- * Bohemia was split between **Pan-Slavs** & **Pan-Germans**.
- * Prague Conference:
 - Developed the idea of **Austro-Slavism**.
 - A constitution & autonomy within the Habsburg Empire.
- * The Austrian military ultimately attacked Prague, occupied Bohemia & crushed the rebellion.



The Prague
Barricades





Italy

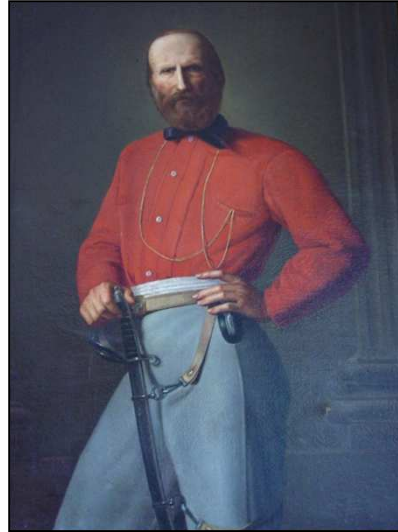
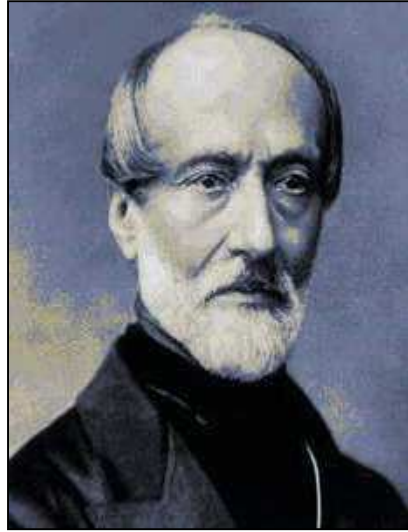


Upheaval in Italy, 1848

- * Italian nationalists and liberals sought to end foreign domination of Italy.
- * Milan, Lombardy & Venetia wanted to expel their Austrian rulers.
- * Bourbon rulers in Kingdom of Two Sicilies.
- * House of Savoy in Sardinia-Piedmont grant liberal constitutions.
 - Sardinia-Piedmont declared war on Austria.
- * Beginning in May, revolutions suppressed.



Italy, 1848



- * **Giuseppe Mazzini** established a Roman Republic in 1849 protected by **Giuseppe Garibaldi**.
- * **Pope Pius IX** forced to flee.
- * Austrian General Radetsky crushed Sardinia-Piedmont.
- * French troops take back the Papal States.
- * **Victor Emmanuel II** takes the throne in Sardinia-Piedmont.





Reasons for Failure in Italy

- * Rural people did not support the revolutions.
 - Revolutionaries focused mainly on urban middle classes.
- * The revolutionaries were not united.
 - Fear of radicals among moderates lead to the collapse of the revolutions.
- * Lack of leadership and administrative experience among the revolutionaries.

Germania - 1848



Frederick William IV of Prussia (1840-1861)



- * Anti-liberal
- * Relied on *Junker* support.
- * Prussia in the mid-19^c:
 - Efficient.
 - Good economy.
 - Strong military.



The Germans Follow the French

- * After the February French revolutions, there were many riots in minor German states.
- * Austria and Prussia expected to intervene to crush these revolts, BUT:
 - Vienna Revolution → led to the fall of Metternich.
 - Berlin riots
 - Prussian army efficiently suppressed the revolutionaries.
 - King Frederick William IV withdraws the troops and hand the Prussia liberals a big victory!
 - Other Princedoms collapse when Prussia's nerve fails.

Funeral for Berlin Freedom Fighters

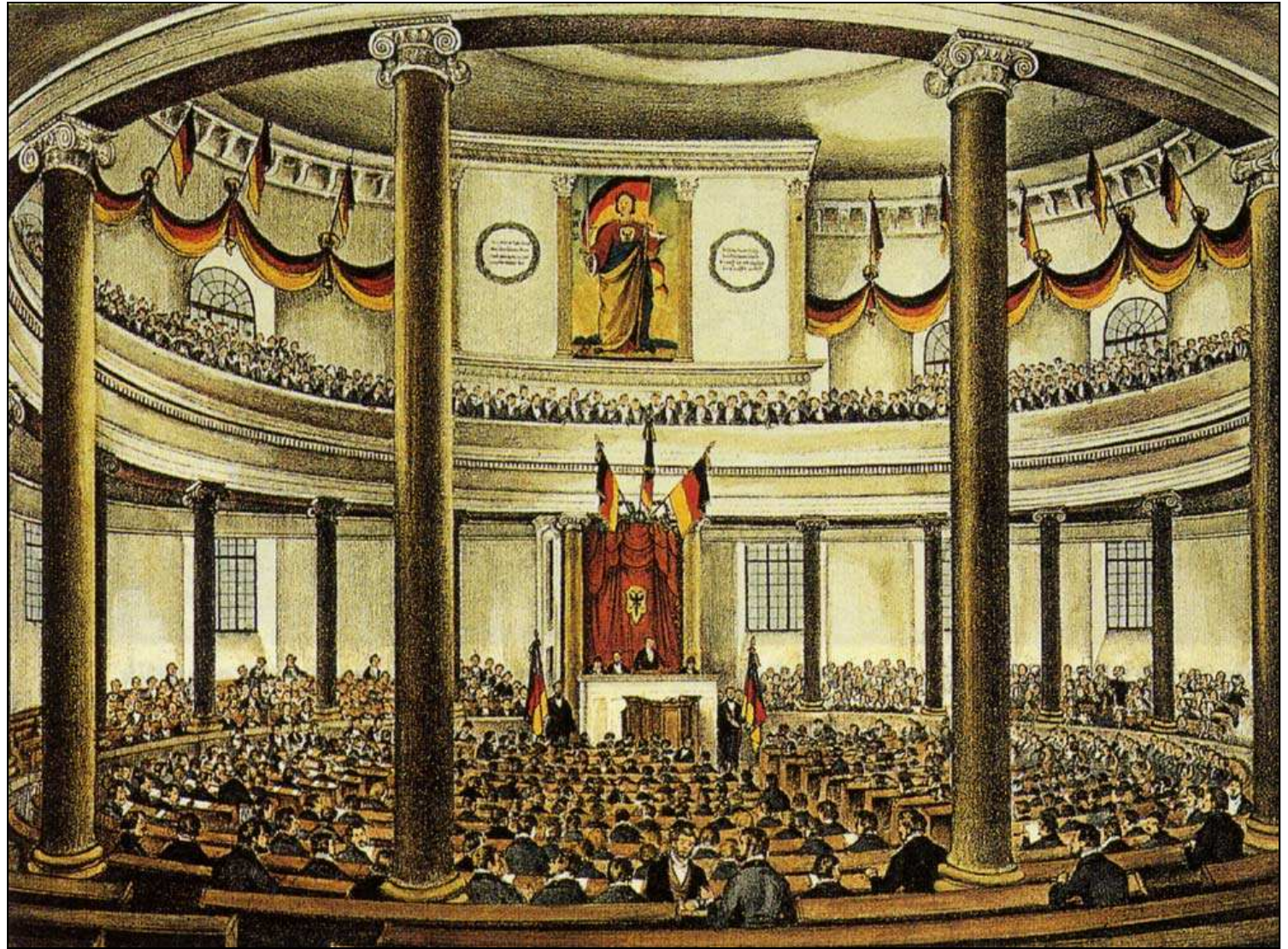




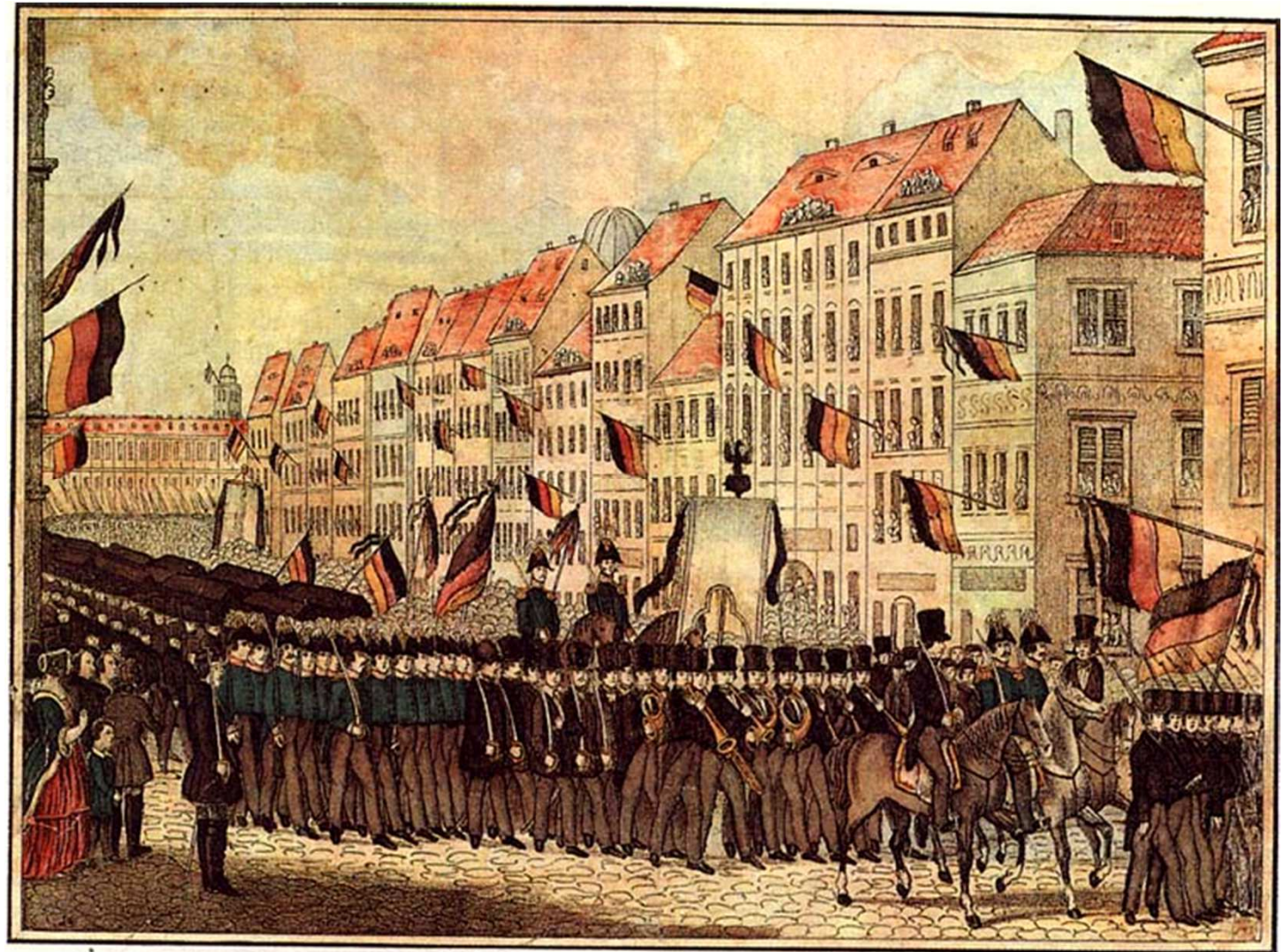
The Frankfurt Assembly

- * German liberals are overjoyed!
- * German National Assembly established in Frankfurt:
 - Universal suffrage.
 - Delegates mostly from the middle class.
 - Debate over the nature of the state → monarchy of Habsburgs or Hohenzollerns?
 - They chose the Austrian Habsburg Archduke John rather than the King of Prussia.
 - He was a well-known liberal sympathizer.
 - But they couldn't guarantee the loyalty of the Prussian Army.

Frankfurt Assembly Meets



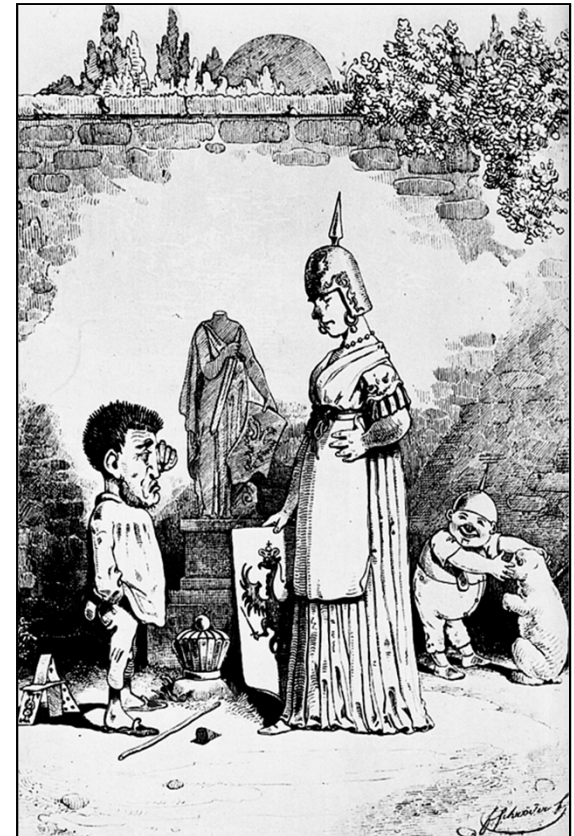
A Citizen Militia on Parade in Berlin





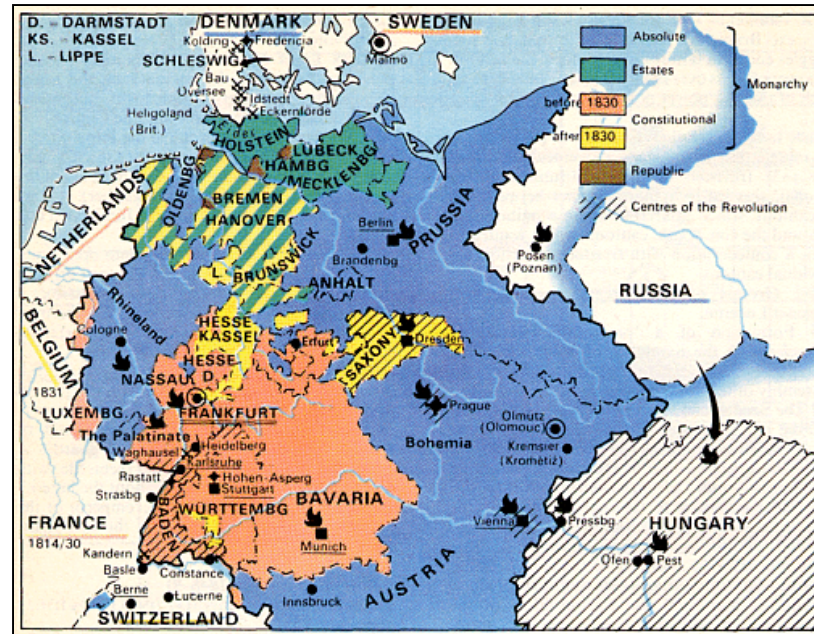
Austria & Prussia Reassert Control

- * Austria re-gained control of Vienna.
- * Frederick William deposed the Berlin parliament.
- * The Frankfurt Assembly offered the emperorship to Frederick William.
 - He declined.
 - Radicals took to the barricades again.
 - The Prussian army crushed all resistance.
 - April, 1849 → the Assembly collapsed.





A New German Confederation



- * Frederick William IV of Prussia was still interested in ruling a united Germany.
- * 1850 → the German Confederation was re-established at Olmutz.
- * But, Frederick was forced to accept Austrian leadership of Central Europe.



Liberalism Discredited in Germany

- * Little popular support.
- * The union of liberals and democrats didn't last.
- * Rule of force was the only winner!
- * There was a massive exodus of liberal intelligentsia.
 - Militarism, hierarchy, and statism were triumphant!
 - Capitalists followed suit.



1848: Outside the Continent

Chartist Meeting, 1848



- * The Movement reached its height with the Kennington Common demonstration on April 10, 1848.
- * This could have been the prelude to revolution in Britain, but the meeting was peaceful.
- * The Chartist leaders did not follow up on the meeting, and the movement died.

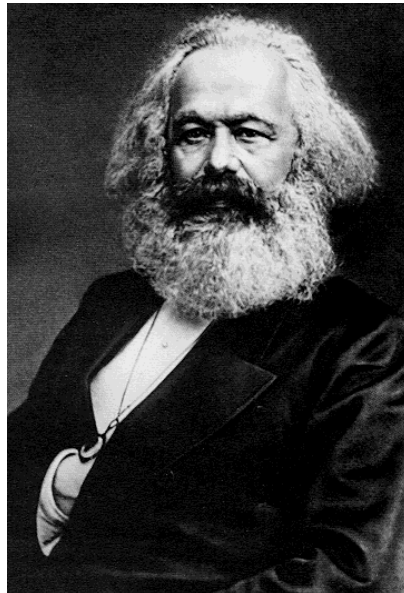


THE AFTERMATH

Democrats Swept Out of Europe



The Communist Manifesto



Karl Marx



Friedrich
Engels



Why did the 1848 Revolutions Fail?

- * They failed to attract popular support from the working classes.
- * The middle classes led these revolutions, but as they turned radical, the middle class held back.
- * Nationalism divided more than united.
- * Where revolutions were successful, the Old Guard was left in place and they turned against the revolutionaries.
- * Some gains lasted [abolition of serfdom, etc.]
- * BUT, in the long term, most liberal gains would be solidified by the end of the 19^c:
 - The unification of Germany and Italy.
 - The collapse of the Hapsburg Empire at the end of World War I.

The Bottom Line

- * It looked like the Conservative forces had triumphed.
- * BUT...
 - Things had changed forever.
 - Economic/social problems continued to be constant challenges to the ruling order.
 - Conservatives would have to make concessions in order to stay in power.
 - Many of the limited Liberal achievements remained permanent.

